



MINUTES

OF THE ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE MEETING

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leroy Brownlee, Chairman
Abraham Carpenter, Jr., Vice-Chairman
John Felts, Commissioner
Carolyn Robinson, Commissioner
John Belken, Commissioner
Joseph Peacock., Commissioner

HEARING EXAMINERS:

Carol V. Bohannan, Attorney
Ernest Sanders, Jr., Attorney

EXCUSED WITH VALID REASON(S): Richard L. Mays, Jr., Secretary/Commissioner
James L. Williams, II, Attorney/Hearing Examiner

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Sharon Lewis, Management Project Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ronald Dobbs, Assistant Director, Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC)
Dan Roberts, Deputy Director, Department of Community Correction (DCC)
Steve Arnold, Assistant Director, Department of Community Correction
Jeff Tillman, Assistant Director, Department of Community Correction
Rhonda Sharp, Assistant to the Director for Public Relations, DCC
Shirley Ellingburg, Area Manager, Institutional Release Services, DCC
Don Barnes, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's (AG's) Office
Bernastene Hendrix, Fiscal Manager, ABP
Tamara Salaam, Administrative Assistant, ABP
Solomon Graves, User Support Analyst, ABP
Lois Hansberry, Administrative Assistant, ABP

Called to Order

Brownlee called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 9:30 a.m. The Chairman requested for Sharon Lewis to take minutes on behalf of Commissioner Mays.

Approval of February 12, 2009 Minutes

Carpenter moved,

Peacock seconded. Motion carried.

Population Reports

A brief overview of the ADC, DCC and ABP reports was made.

Brownlee reported that on February 24th, the Board of Correction (BOC) approved the Emergency Powers Act (EPA) for approximately 600 eligible inmates.

To assist with the county jail backlog, the Board will go to the county jails to conduct hearings on parole violators who have been in jail at least six (6) months. Mr. Roberts was requested to notify the Board of these violators.

Attorney General's Office

Mr. Barnes gave an update on the pending lawsuits and the requested information by the Board on the status of death row cases. Ms. Kelly Hill is handling the case filed by inmate Brandon Rowe, ADC #116112.

Hearing Examiners' Reports

The Hearing Examiners presented their reports.

The Board will begin monitoring the number of parole hearings conducted by the Hearing Examiners.

OLD BUSINESS

Training & ABP Updates: Mr. Graves reported that training for board members and/or/staff will be held on Wednesday, March 4th, on the laptops and the upgraded eOMIS system.

The new eOMIS interface will be released Monday, March 9th.

On April 6th, training via video stream on sexual harassment and conduct for Board members and staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Graves reported on and distributed minutes from the February 19th inmate panel discussion held at the Wrightsville Unit. He stated that majority of the discussion dealt with the 70% law and inmates serving life sentences are unable to get into some of the treatment programs. The Board extended gratitude to Ms. Melissa Haney, Administrative Assistant, Parole Services, on the great job she did in assisting Graves and the Board members conducting the panel.

Kim Knoll, PO, Area 11 inquired on the number of board members that will be attending the Arkansas Adult Probation & Parole Association (APPA) Spring Conference. Felts will handle this request for the Board.

Election of officers for the Board Secretary and Vice-Chairman was held. Peacock made a motion to reelect the current officers by acclamation. Felts seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix updated the Board on the financial status of ABP.

FILES FOR DISCUSSION - REVIEW

An overview of the victim input hearings listing was conducted.

RATIFICATION OF VOTES

Ms. Lewis read off the units for ratification. Felts moved.

Peacock seconded. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

LEROY BROWNLEE
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD L. MAYS, JR.
SECRETARY

**ARKANSAS BOARD OF PAROLE
FULL BOARD RATIFICATION VOTES BY UNITS**

FEBRUARY 2009

<u>UNITS:</u>	<u>RATIFIED (X)</u>
BENTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CAC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CUMMINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DIAGNOSTIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EAST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MISSISSIPPI CO.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEAC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OUACHITA REGIONAL - Malvern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PINE BLUFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RANDALL L. WILLIAMS CORR.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SEAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SWAR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TRCC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
VARNER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHTSVILLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER: RESCINDS & TRANSFER SCREENINGS, ACT 290'S SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS, 700'S, RECONSIDERATION, REVOCATION APPEALS, CLEMENCIES, PARDONS, ETC.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

MOTION BY: JOHN FELTS SECONDED BY: JOSEPH PEACOCK

RATIFICATION DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2009